ICARC NEWSLETTER

Feb 2026

Much thanks to the ARRL Foundation
for its support provided to the
ICARC tower and repeater
upgrades at its remote site

Officers for 2026:
President – Bill Robinson, KC3ZAF
Vice President - Joe Rougeux, KD3BCW
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Larry Freeman, N3LT

Board of Directors for 2026
1. Craig Bigler, AB3XA
2. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
3. Ralph Timblin, N3UDI
4. Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

ICARC Meeting on March 3, 2026
The back room of Eat & Park restaurant at 6:30 PM

A Saturday event at the Rhine Road site is planned for March 21, 2026; Weather permitting.

It will be a combination event for antenna contruction and a "Hot Dog Night" :

The antenna construction event in the afternoon will be a "Loops on the Ground" receive antenna: all materials will be supplied for the construction project. This will involve winding the matching transformer for interfacing the antenna to a radio and testing. As the name implies, it actually is a loop antenna made of insulated wire laying on the ground. It will officially start at 1400 hours but some of us will be there at 1300 hours to set up the table and canopies. The "Hot Dog Night" will transistion from the antenna project as time makes for convenience (likely around 1700 hours). Please feel free to bring something to share at Hot Dog Night. Hope to see you there.

A meeting of the ICARC Foundation Grant Committee was held on February 4, 2026 to discuss the final purchases from the Foundation Grant funds and the content of the Final Report.

NATIONAL HAPPENINGS:

(Exerp from the ARRL Current) Apply Now for 2026 ARRL Teachers Institute

Calling all STEM educators! The ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology is accepting applications. This isn't your average sit-and-listen workshop. It's an intensive, hands-on experience where you'll dive into topics like Robotics and Microcontrollers, Satellite Communications, Weather Data Collection, and Radio Science & Electronics. Get the tools, the knowledge, and the hardware to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists. Apply Now

What follows is an exerpt from the February 26 ARRL Newsletter:

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) has removed two questions from the General Class question pool and one question from the Extra Class pool from use.

Due to recently published FCC rule changes affecting the 60 meter band (see previous ARRL News story), General Class questions G1A04 and G1C09 are no longer valid and must be removed from use on examinations. Extra Class question E4D05 must also be removed because it contains more than one correct answer. All affected questions should be removed from examinations as soon as possible.

Updated General Class question pool files, including the errata and new information, have been posted to the NCVEC General Class question pool web page at www.ncvec.org/index.php/2023-2027-general-question-pool-release. The current Element 3 General question pool became effective on July 1, 2023, and it is valid through June 30, 2027.

Updated question pool files have also been posted to the NCVEC Extra Class question pool web page at www.ncvec.org/index.php/2024-2028-extra-class-question-pool-release. The current Element 4 Extra question pool became effective on July 1, 2024, and it is valid through June 30, 2028.

The ARRL VEC advises the amateur radio community, and particularly Volunteer Examiners (VEs), to regularly check the NCVEC website at www.ncvec.org for updates to the question pools, which may include errata and withdrawn questions.

Announcements:

Remember: The ICARC meetings are, generally, scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on Tue, March 3, 2026, 6:30 pm at the Indiana, PA Eat 'n Park Restaurant.

Pledges to the Grant Fund by ICARC Members: $1720.00, Collected to date: $1400.00

It is membership renewal time therefore a membership form is attached to the end of this document. Remember that you may also renew from the W3BMD website at https://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/

The video links for the old tower take down are given below:

Links for Tower Take-down

Courtesy of Deryl Mack , KC3YZW

https://youtu.be/c1LG7SRu9b0

https://youtu.be/risblzrA_hY

https://youtu.be/zCV7vwqTMjk

Remember: The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on each Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.910/146.310 MHz. (ICARC is an ARRL affliated club). There will often be a second net starting immediately following the primary net with the W3BMD/2 repeater, on 146.655/.055 MHz located at ICARC's Remote site. (Tones for both are 131.8 Hz)
Current Net Control Operators: Phil Kopczyk, Chris Edwards, Stuart Younkin, and Ralph Timblin. We thank you fellows very much. We can always use more.

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading? Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Shown below are websites where you can look into testing online.

https://wm7x.net/ One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.
https://kl7aa.org/vex/remote-testing/
https://hamstrung/sessions/remote Lists remote and in person test sessions.

ICARC Meeting, Minutes, 01/06/2026 .

President (KC3ZAF) called the meeting to order at 18:30 hours.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: DONE

2. Roll Call: 13 Attendees – KC3ZAF, N3VFK, N3DZ, N3LT, WB3DUD, K3PJ, N3ARA, WA3BDR, K3VAR, KD3BCW, KB3WG, W3CDH, N3UDI

3. Treasurer's Report: Reported account balances does not include dues collected for 2026. Electric bill will be $79.79 which may include new fees.

4. Trustee's Report: All repeaters are working well at this time.

5. Secretary's Report & Grant Committee update: Minutes from 12/02/2025 were read and approved. Progress report on grant was given indicating recent acquisitions such as the duplexers for uhf & vhf and recent purchases along with the total budget thereof to date. Future purchases and other tower work to be done was also reported. The approval for the request for an extension to the grant deadline was also reported.

6. Determine 2026 Secretary Office Holder: considerable discussion ending with N3LT, reluctantly, agreeing to be the Secretary of Record.

7. Winter Field Day: Discussed in depth with the following results: Three operational stations at Blue Spruce county park, with three separate antennas. Networked Computer Logging will be implemented using N1MM. Food resources will be pot luck with each participant bringing their desired food and be willing to share. There will be a preliminary meeting at the Rhine Rd site to inventory and gather available antennas and supplies on Jan 17, the prior Saturday at 10:00 AM. Antenna preparation and setup to be at the Blue Spruce Lodge site, 10:00 AM, Friday, Jan 23, 2026. A sign up sheet for this was passed around and nine people signed the sheet.

8. Adjournment: Motion made for adjournment and voted upon and accepted. Meeting was adjourned at 19:55 hours

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Membership Application

CURRENT DATE (M/D/Y): / / Membership Status(I,A,S,F): New_____ Ongoing_____

Individual Membership (I) — $35.00 **Associate/Student Membership (A, S) —** $20.00
Family Membership (F) – $50.00 {Two voting members per family}

***** Please complete the applicable information below: *****

Name:_____ DOB:_____ (Year Optional)

Call: _____ Class:_____ARRL:____FISTS:____ARES:___RACES:___

Other:_____ DOB:_____ (Year Optional)

Call:_____ Class:_____ ARRL:___FISTS:____ARES:____RACES:___

Other:_____ DOB:_____ (Year Optional)

Call:_____ Class:_____ARRL:___FISTS:____ARES:____RACES:___

Address: _____City:_____ St:_____Zip:_____

Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____

Email: _____Other Email: _____

Do you belong to A.R.E.S. / R.A.C.E.S. of another County, if so which one: _____

Is it OK to put your name onto the R.A.C.E.S / A.R.E.S. emergency call list? Yes___ No___

Are you a member of the ARRL? Yes_____ No_____

Signature_____ Date _____

Please return this form along with a check or money order payable to ICARC, to:

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 2020
Indiana, PA 15701

Date Received _____ Amount $_____ (Cash) (Check) (MO) Number _____

The club info & newsletter is available on our web site at: www.qsl.net/w3bmd